



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

EDEN
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/825,153	04/16/2004	Johannes Cornelis Driessen	081468-0309282	7863
909	7590	11/03/2005	EXAMINER	
PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN, LLP				GURZO, PAUL M
P.O. BOX 10500				ART UNIT
MCLEAN, VA 22102				PAPER NUMBER
				2881

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/825,153	DRIESSEN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Paul Gurzo	2881

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 October 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-3, 15-17 and 19 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 4-14 and 18 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/4/05.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 15-17, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morita et al. (5,914,493).

Regarding claims 1, 17, and 19, 493 teaches a load lock assembly that operates in the following manner: the first gate valve (2) is closed and the second gate valve (5) is opened to bring the load-lock chamber (3) to atmospheric pressure. One of several wafers (6), located at position D in the atmospheric chamber (8), is transported to position C and then to position B in the load-lock chamber (3). The second gate valve (5) is then closed and the load-lock chamber (3) is rapidly evacuated until the pressure inside of the load-lock chamber (3) matches the vacuum condition in the exposure-processing chamber (1). The first gate valve (2) is then opened and the wafer (6) is transported from position B to position A in the exposure-processing chamber (1). The first gate valve (2) is closed, and exposure processing begins in the exposure-processing chamber (1) (col. 1, lines 38-51 and Fig. 1). Therefore, there exists two vacuums, namely the vacuum present in chamber (3) and the one in chamber (1). The movement of the wafer (6) to the wafer stage (9) teaches the claimed communication and movement of a utility to a component and Fig. 1 clearly shows that the component (9) is movable in the vacuum chamber. The component (wafer stage (9)) is located in the first vacuum space and the conduit is the

region within the second vacuum chamber (3). The casing of the chamber (3) will act as the conduit shield because it separates the first and second vacuum chambers and is constructed and arranged to allow for movement of the component. Further, the use of the gate valves (2 and 5) teach on the claimed vacuum generator that is coupled to the space and is constructed and arranged to provide a vacuum in the space comprising the at least one conduit (col. 4, lines 28-64).

Regarding claims 2 and 3, Fig. 1 clearly depicts the claimed conduit shield (3) and this shield comprises the conduct and has at least two joints and the shape of the shield/conduct will guide and shield.

Regarding claims 15 and 16, it is inherent that the vacuum chambers can be pumped to the desired pressures by the respective vacuum generators, and Fig. 1 clearly shows the claimed component being an object table (9).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-14 and 18 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding these claims, the prior art does not teach or render obvious the claimed motor vacuum seals in each of the joints, the at least one hollow elongate arm portion, or a lithographic projection apparatus comprising a radiation system, a first and second object table, and the assembly communicating utilities to one of the object tables.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 10/19/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the prior art does not teach the communication of a utility or the use of a conduit shield.

Regarding the communication of a utility, Applicant makes no mention in the claim of what a utility is. It is the position of the Examiner that introducing a wafer to a component located in a vacuum chamber will communicate a utility to the component using the common definition of utility as something that is useful. In the case of the wafer art, adding a wafer to the component is certainly useful.

Regarding the conduit shield, the claim states that the shield must 1) enclose the conduit and 2) substantially separate the space from the vacuum. It is clear that 1) is met because the utility is communicated through the conduit that is enclosed with the shield (3). Further, the shield must substantially separate the space from the vacuum. But what does substantial mean? How substantial must this shielding be? It is clear that the claimed space (which is inside the shield (3)) and the vacuum chamber (1) are clearly separated according to Fig. 1. When gate valve (2) is closed, there is clear separation. Therefore, the combination of valve (2) and shield (3) will act to substantially separate the space from the vacuum, thereby teaching on the claimed conduit shield.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

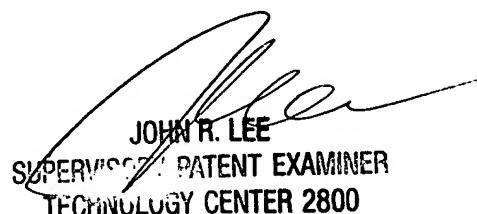
MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Gurzo whose telephone number is (571) 272-2472. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Fri. 7:30 - 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Lee can be reached at (571) 272-2477. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PMG



JOHN R. LEE
SUPERVISOR, PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800